Bonnie Fogdall 10/05/2001 09:44 AM

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Subject: Public Inquiry - Byron Clemens

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J.

Naomi Lewis 10/05/2001 09:25 AM

To:

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CC:

Subject: Public Inquiry

QA:N/A Inclusionary

----- Forwarded by Naomi Lewis/YM/RWDOE on 10/05/2001 09:25 AM ------

Public Inquiry

October 05, 2001 08:56:26

IP address: 204.184.107.5

Name: Byron Clemens

E-mail: CLEMENSBYRON000@AOL.COM

Comments: To:

Department of Energy

Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management

Yucca Mountain Site Characterization Office

From: Byron Clemens

100 Arundel

St. Louis, MO.

63105

RE: Yucca Mountain Preliminary Site Suitablity Evaluation and Supplement to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement

After consideration of the public hearings in January 2000 and review of the above mentioned documents and articles in the New York Times and Nature magazine I am concerned that a political decision is being made concerning the suitability of Yucca Mountain as a temporary and/or permanent Radioactive Waste site. The scientific and technical feasability of the site is highly questionable. Yucca Mountain is a poor choice for several

geologic, transport, hydrological reasons. Yucca Mountain is seismologically

and volcanically active area. The destruction of the Yucca Mountain public information center and the relatively high level of seismic activity offer evidence for concern. The geologic make up of the site indicates fracturing which may aid the leaching of radioactive materials and make them difficult or impossible to retrieve if migration occurs. The site has shown significant migration of water through the site some of which shows evidence of man made chemicals which indicates that water moves through the site in a measure of decades not thousands of years. The technical aspects of transportation have not been adequately addressed. The very real possibility of terrorist activity would suggest that

transport and storage at one facility may not be a better choice than storage at individual sites that produce Radioactive waste. For the above mentioned reasons and those that I voiced in the Public Hearings if I believe the Secretary of Energy should not proceed with a recommendation to develop a repository at Yucca Mountain. Given evidence of seismic activity, fracturing of rock at the site, water migration and question regarding transport and possible sabotage or theft of material - preference should be given to on-site storage. DOE should not give preference to a political decision over real scientific and technical considerations. Pitting the political muscle of the State of Nevada against the Federal Government does not make the site suitable. DOE should make an effort to stop or limit production of more radioactive waste until the current waste sites are cleaned up. Indicating that the DOE's plans are evolving to solve recently found problems means that previous research has not been adequate. I

Sincerely,

Byron Clemens

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